



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, March 03, 2008

Electricity

Duke's 846 MW Oconee Nuke Unit 1 in South Carolina Reduced to 68 Percent by March 1

The company reduced the power output of the unit to repair a reactor coolant pump. According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, it was operating at 100 percent on February 29.

Bloomberg, 12:22 March 3, 2008

Information also derived from NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2008/>

San Miguel's 410 MW San Miguel Coal-fired Unit in Texas Shut March 1

Reuters, 11:45 March 3, 2008

Update: Entergy's 1,207 MW Grand Gulf Nuke Unit 1 in Mississippi Ramped Up to 97 Percent by March 2

According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the unit reduced to 82 percent power by March 1. The company had restored the unit to 93 percent power by February 29, after a February 23 repair shutdown. It is unclear why output dipped again.

Reuters, 7:14 February 29, 2008

Information also derived from NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2008/>

Exelon's 850 MW Dresden Nuke Unit 2 in Illinois Ramped Up to 97 Percent by March 2

According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the unit reduced to 72 percent by March 1.

Information derived from NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2008/>

OPG Shuts Two 490 MW Units at Nanticoke Coal-fired Power Plant

Ontario Power Generation (OPG) shut Unit 2 for short work, and Unit 3 for long work, a source said. An OPG spokesman did not say when the units would return to service. Traders, however, expected Unit 2 to resume service within a week, and Unit 3 in a month, or longer.

Reuters, 10:45 March 3, 2008

OPG Restarts Three Units at Nanticoke Coal-fired Power Plant by March 3

Ontario Power Generation (OPG) restarted Units 4, 6, and 8 by March 3, according to a company spokesman. Each of those units has a capacity of 490 MW.

Reuters, 10:45 March 3, 2008

Update: Texas Regulators to Probe State Electricity Emergency February 26 Incident Nearly Caused Rolling Blackouts

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) admits it violated its own emergency-handling rules during last Tuesday's electricity event. The Texas Public Utility Commission (PUC), meanwhile, said it will investigate the incident. ERCOT implemented emergency procedures February 26, as high evening demand and an unexpected dip in wind power generation nearly stalled the electricity grid. By its own admission, ERCOT should have issued a conservation warning, advising customers to scale back electricity use. It did not issue such a warning. ERCOT, however, defended its decision. The event lasted just a few hours, it said, and ended too quickly for a public warning. In addition, such a warning would have been overly alarming, considering the group had already moved to resolve the situation. It might have worsened the situation, it said.

http://www.star-telegram.com/state_news/story/504967.html

Update: FPL's 693 MW Turkey Point Nuke Unit 4 in Florida at Full Power by March 2 Unit 3 Remains Down for Work and Tests

FPL restarted Turkey Point's Unit 4 on March 1, an FPL spokeswoman said. The unit returned to full power by March 2, according to a Nuclear Regulatory Commission report. FPL idled both of Turkey Point's nuclear units, 3 and 4, on February 26, after a substation fault and fire shut two transmission lines. A resultant cascading effect cut power to about 700,000 Florida customers. Workers continue to perform work and tests on Unit 3. A spokeswoman did not say when that unit would return to service, but traders expected it would be back within a week.

Bloomberg News, 09:39 March 3, 2008

Reuters, 10:29 March 3, 2008

Information also derived from NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2008/>

Winds Cut Power to 30,800 SCE Customers in California March 2

Winds gusted as heavy as 54 mph, cut power to 30,800 Southern California Edison (SCE) customers March 2. SCE restored power to all customers within a few hours. Forecasts called for heavier winds today, March 3.

http://www.pe.com/localnews/sbcounty/stories/PE_News_Local_D_winds03.38e0e33.html?npc

http://www.sbsun.com/ci_8433265?source=rss

Petroleum

Equipment Upset at Valero's 135,000 b/d Wilmington, California Refinery

The incident lasted under two hours and resulted in flaring. It would not impact production, a spokesperson said.

Reuters, 17:00 February 29, 2008

BP May Postpone Restart of 225,000 b/d Sour Crude Unit at 437,000 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery

According to a filing with state regulators, the company planned to restart the unit on February 29, but might not restore it until March 15.

Reuters, 15:43 February 29, 2008

Update: ExxonMobil Resumes Normal Operations at 60,000 b/d Billings, Montana Refinery—Multi-Month Curtailment after October Fire

Fire slowed the refinery on October 17.

Reuters, 10:44 October 18, 2007

Reuters, 10:41 March 3, 2008

Update: ConocoPhillips Restarts SRU at 247,000 b/d Sweeny Texas Refinery March 1

According to a filing with state regulators, the company restarted the sulfur recovery unit (SRU) B-Claus train March 1.

Reuters, 09:19 March 3, 2008

<http://www2.tceq.state.tx.us/ee/main/index.cfm?fuseaction=getDetails&target=104388>

Update: Ecuador Repairs, Restarts 400,000 b/d SOTE Oil Pipeline Reserves Kept Exports at Normal Rates, Official Says

Workers repaired the landslide-ruptured SOTE pipeline, and resumed throughput by this morning, news sources said. The shutdown postponed exports of Oriente crude, and stalled at least one oil shipment of 86,000 barrels to an Ecuadorian oil company. It did not, however, delay oil exports, the nation's Oil Minister said. Reserves made up for lost throughput. The SOTE oil pipeline moves about 70 percent of Ecuador's daily crude production.

<http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2008/03/02/america/LA-FIN-Ecuador-Pipeline.php>

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/oilRpt/idUKN0228177820080302>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSN03324837>

Update: Pipeline Repairs Complete—Shell Ends Force Majeure on Bonny Light and Forcados Crude Exports from Nigeria March 3

The company finished repairs along its pipeline system, and lifted the force majeure March 3.

Reuters, 12:37 March 3, 2008

PDVSA, Eni Sign Deal to Explore 2.5 Billion-Plus Barrel Oil Block in Orinoco Belt, Venezuela

The “Junin 5” block could produce 300,000 b/d by 2014, according to the companies. The block’s estimated potential reserves exceed 2.5 billion barrels, they said.

Reuters, 19:23 February 29, 2008

Natural Gas

Questar Plans to Expand Natural Gas Pipeline System in Wyoming

Questar Overthrust Pipeline initiated a binding open season February 29, seeking bids for a proposed pipeline expansion in Wyoming, a news source said. The open season includes three expansion options. Based on solicitor interest, Questar will choose one of those three plans. The first option, or “Western Flow Path,” would move up to 1 Bcf/d from Wamsutter, Wyoming to Opal, Wyoming. The second, or “Eastern Flow Path,” would travel the same route, but in the opposite direction. It would also ship up to 1 Bcf/d. The third, or “White River Lateral,” would require a new, 140-mile, 810,000 Dth/d pipeline from the Piceance Basin to Wamsutter. The company plans to begin service by January, 2011.

<http://www.platts.com/Natural%20Gas/News/6794995.xml?p=Natural%20Gas/News&sub=Natural%20Gas>

Other News

Update: Orion Ethanol’s 55 Million Gallon/Year Gateway Ethanol Plant in Kansas Shut February 27—Plant Manager Cites Grain Prices

The plant’s owners are “restructuring operating capital,” a news source said. Officials maintain the shutdown is temporary—the plant’s manager said the facility would restart sometime this week—but industry analysts doubt it will actually turn around so quickly.

Bloomberg, 11:11 March 3, 2008

<http://www.kansas.com/business/updates/story/326261.html>

<http://www.kansas.com/business/agriculture/story/327560.html>

<http://www.pratttribune.com/articles/2008/02/27/news/00.txt>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 3, 2008			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	103.43	99.24	61.98
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	9.10	8.65	7.22

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Road Salt, Humidity at Fault as 10,000 Xcel Energy Customers Lose Power in Minnesota March 2—Power Restored to Most by Morning

http://www.twincities.com/ci_8436135?source=rss

http://www.kare11.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=500775

CL&P, LIPA near Completion of 11-mile, 300 MW T&D Line under Long Island Sound To Move Power to New York and New England by July, 2008

<http://www.newsday.com/news/local/ny-licab10302.0.7206443.story?track=rss>

Gunman Assault Police Houseboat at Bonny Island O&G Export Facility in Niger Delta, Nigeria March 1—No Damage to Facilities

<http://seanews.info/news/news.asp?newsID=57339>

Reuters, 04:58 March 1, 2008

OPEC Will Not Change Oil Quota at March 5 Meeting—Libyan Official

<http://www.topix.net/content/ap/2008/03/libya-opec-to-keep-production-unchanged>

Truck Spills 1,000 Gallons of Heating Oil in Maryland

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/traffic/bal-spill0229.0.5550945.story>

Flaring at Shell's 333,700 b/d Deer Park, Texas Refinery February 29

<http://www2.tceq.state.tx.us/ee/main/index.cfm?fuseaction=getDetails&target=104435>

OPEC Oil Output Dips in February on Production Declines in Iran, Nigeria Falls from 29.89 Million b/d in January to 29.78 Million b/d—Reuters Survey

Reuters, 22:06 March 3, 2008

Electrical Problem Shuts Compressor Unit at Welch CO2 Gas Processing Facility in Texas Workers Restore Unit within Three Hours March 1

<http://www2.tceq.state.tx.us/ee/main/index.cfm?fuseaction=getDetails&target=104442>

Malfunction Shuts Units at Andrews Booster Station in Texas February 29

<http://www2.tceq.state.tx.us/ee/main/index.cfm?fuseaction=getDetails&target=104397>

Links

This Week in Petroleum from the Energy Information Administration (EIA)

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/twip/twip.asp>

Updated every Wednesday.

Weekly Petroleum Status Report from EIA

http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil_gas/petroleum/data_publications/weekly_petroleum_status_report/wpsr.html

Updated after 10:30 AM & 1:00 PM EST every Wednesday.

Natural Gas Weekly Update from EIA

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/ngw/ngupdate.asp>

Updated after 2:00 PM EST every Thursday.

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

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<http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/index.aspx>.

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